

# **Meat Goat Grades**

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# What is a goat “GRADE” ??

**GRADE** : *a define category of standards based on visual appraisal and measurable carcass characteristics*



# USDA Live Goat Grades

- Selection No. 1
- Selection No. 2
- Selection No. 3

Effective Date: October 2001



# Selection No. 1

Selection No. 1 live goat have a superior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be thickly muscled throughout the body as indicated by a pronounced (bulging) outside leg, a full (rounded) loin, and a moderately thick outside shoulder.





Selection 1  
88 lbs.

Selection 1  
Carcass  
44 lbs.

50.0% Yield





## Selection No. 2

Selection No. 2 live goats have an average meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be moderately muscled throughout the body as indicated by a slightly thick and a slightly pronounced outside leg, a slightly full loin, and a slightly thick to slightly thin outside shoulder.





Selection 2  
79 lbs.

Yield  
46.8%

Selection 2  
Carcass  
37 lbs.





# Selection No. 3

Selection No. 3 live goats have an inferior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. The legs, back and shoulders are narrow in relation with its length and they have a very angular and sunken appearance





Selection 3  
50 lbs.

Yield  
40%



Selection 3  
Carcass  
20 lbs.



# Terminology of Meat Goats

## Class (Sex):

**Buck:** intact (not castrated) male caprine.

**Doe:** female caprine

**Wether:** castrated male caprine before developing secondary physical characteristics of a buck (steer)

## Age (Maturity):

**Kid:** has all baby teeth, 14 months old or less

**Yearling:** has cut its first pair of permanent incisor teeth, but not the second pair, 14 to 24 months years old.

**Goat:** adult caprine, has cut its second pair (or more) of permanent incisor teeth. More than 24 months old.

## Breed: (Meat or Dairy)

Dairy and dairy crosses

Boer and Boer Crosses

Brush, Spanish, Texas, etc.

Pygmy



# Selection 1

- Superior meat type conformation, thick leg, thick and rounded loin, moderately thick shoulder.
- Thickly muscled, very good overall health, indications of very high level of nutrition.



Meat Breed: Boer X Brush cross



# Selection 2

- Average meat type conformation and moderate finish. Slightly thick leg, slightly full loin, slightly thin shoulder.
- At least slightly thick muscling, overall good health and indications of adequate nutrition.
- Meat breed cross.





# Selection 3

- Inferior meat type conformation. Legs, back, loin are narrow in relation with its length and they have a very angular and sunken appearance.
- Exhibit symptoms of poor management, lack of nutrition, lack of parasite control.
- Dairy breed cross





# Selection 1 Goats



No. 1 Doe

No. 1 Buck





# Selection 2 Goats



No. 2 Doe



No.2 Doe



# Selection 3 goats



No. 3 Doe

No. 3 Doe







# Adult Bucks

Note: Dark Carcass





No. 1 Yearling  
95 lbs.



No. 1 Carcass  
45.5 lbs.

48% Yield





No. 2 Doe  
75 lbs.

Yield  
43.3%



No. 2 Carcass  
32.5 lbs.





No. 1 / No. 2

No.2 / No. 1







# Selection 1

Boer cross  
buck kids

40 - 50 lbs.





Selection 1 Yearling Does  
80 - 100 lbs.





Selection 2  
Yearling Does



Selection 2  
Does (Adults)





Selection No. 3

Selection No. 2

Selection No. 1



